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Chairperson: Mr. García González (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (El Salvador)

Contents

Agenda item 40: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*)

Agenda item 50: Information and communication technologies for development (*continued*)

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(c) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

Agenda item 54: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Agenda item 53: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*)

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)

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(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations (*continued*)

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth special session (*continued*)

(h) Sustainable mountain development (*continued*)

(i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (*continued*)

In the absence of Mr. Park In-kook (Republic of Korea), Mr. García González (El Salvador), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 40: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.12)

Draft resolution on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

1. **Mr. Edrees** (Egypt), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.12, informed the Committee that Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Comoros, Cuba, Ecuador, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Senegal, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors.

2. The draft resolution was a reflection of the Secretary-General's report (A/64/77-E/2009/13), which demonstrated that the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continued to deepen the economic and social hardships of the Palestinian people. The majority of the paragraphs were similar to those of General Assembly resolution 63/201. However, some amended and updated language had been included and one new paragraph had been inserted: the twelfth preambular paragraph, which took note of the recent report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) regarding the grave environmental situation in the Gaza Strip and stressed the need for follow-up of the recommendations therein.

Agenda item 50: Information and communication technologies for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.11)

Draft resolution on building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Superhighway

3. **Mr. Jafarov** (Azerbaijan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.11, announced that Bulgaria, Estonia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Korea had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution primarily focused on connectivity issues and the need to bridge the digital divide, particularly through the Trans-Eurasian Information Superhighway initiative.

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.13)

Draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries

4. **Mr. Daoud** (Sudan) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.13 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(c) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.8)

Draft resolution entitled "Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and taking stock of national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures"

5. **Ms. Markoff** (United States of America), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.8, announced that Bulgaria, Estonia, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom had joined the sponsors.

Agenda item 54: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/64/8 (Supplement No. 8)), A/64/65, A/64/260, A/64/317 and E/2009/80)

6. **Ms. Tibaijuka** (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)), introducing the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (A/64/8 (Supplement No. 8)), the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/64/260) and the report of the Secretary-General on coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2009/80), said that considerable progress had been made over the past year in strengthening UN-Habitat to coordinate and implement the Habitat Agenda. However, the economic crisis and an increasing number of climate change-related natural disasters threatened to reverse many of the gains made

towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

7. Nevertheless, there had been encouraging signs that the Habitat Agenda was receiving increased international recognition, including the message to UN-Habitat from President Obama of the United States on World Habitat Day and the events organized by both the United States Government and the European Parliament to mark the day. Increased public awareness and understanding of the Habitat Agenda were essential in order for UN-Habitat to attract investment and to fulfil its mandate.

8. The establishment of the Governing Council as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly had been a major milestone. One of the Council's first decisions had been to convene the World Urban Forum, which had become the world's premier forum for the discussion of urban issues. UN-Habitat intended to use the Forum to elevate the Habitat Agenda still further through the launch of a new World Urban Campaign, which would be an integral part of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan.

9. In the context of global efforts to combat climate change, UN-Habitat continued to underline the importance of international financial support for local adaptation and mitigation plans and technology transfer. It also wished to underscore the linkages between rapid and chaotic urbanization, on the one hand, and the urbanization of poverty, commodity price volatility and climate change, on the other.

10. Recalling that her final term as Executive Director would end in August 2010, she wished to take the opportunity to express her gratitude for the support provided to her over the past nine years. During that period, donor countries had considerably increased their level of funding to UN-Habitat, which had thus been totally transformed and was now in a better position to fulfil its mandate. She hoped that the election of her successor would proceed in a timely manner, since delays in the transition had been one of the reasons for poor performance in the past.

11. **Mr. Ström** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, supported by **Mr. Mahiga** (United Republic of Tanzania), commended the outgoing Executive Director on the many improvements that she had made to UN-Habitat over the course of her tenure.

Agenda item 53: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/64/65, A/64/81, A/64/83-E/2009/83, A/64/83/Add.1-E/2009/83/Add.1, A/64/259, A/64/489, A/C.2/64/9 and A/C.2/64/10)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/64/169, A/64/258, A/64/274, A/64/275 and A/64/301)

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/64/278)

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*) (A/64/280)

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations (*continued*) (A/64/202)

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*) (A/64/202 and A/64/379)

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*) (A/64/202)

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth special session (*continued*) (A/64/25 (Supplement No. 25))

(h) Sustainable mountain development (*continued*) (A/64/222)

(i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (*continued*) (A/64/277)

12. **Mr. Shin** Boonam (Republic of Korea) said that climate change was a major challenge to global sustainable development that required an urgent response from the international community. Every opportunity should be taken to build the political will necessary to reach a post-Kyoto agreement in Copenhagen. His delegation therefore commended the Secretary-General for convening the recent Summit on Climate Change in New York.

13. To move the climate change negotiations forward, his Government had proposed the establishment of a registry of nationally appropriate mitigation actions by

developing countries. Furthermore, as a non-Annex I party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Republic of Korea hoped to make a meaningful reduction to its greenhouse gas emissions as an example for developing countries to follow and intended to spend approximately two per cent of its annual gross domestic product (GDP) on low-carbon, green growth programmes as part of a national plan for environmentally sustainable economic growth.

14. The Republic of Korea recognized the urgent need for the international community to be actively engaged in efforts to increase access to safe drinking water. In that connection, his Government looked forward to hosting the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which should provide a forum for combating the negative effects of drought. Since water issues were directly related to sustainable development, the United Nations should also explore cooperation initiatives designed to enhance the international community's ability to respond to water-related crises.

15. Lastly, his Government supported the convening of a high-level event on sustainable development in 2012 as an opportunity both to review the progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and to discuss the introduction of low-carbon, green growth policies.

16. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) said that the international community's shared vision to combat climate change should be based on the following overarching principles: first, developed countries should meet their emission reduction commitments and agree to deeper midterm and long-term targets; second, the world as a whole should switch to low-carbon-emissions technologies that enabled high economic growth; and third, agreement should be reached on the financial resources required to combat climate change and the critical role to be played by the public sector.

17. The success of the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would depend on a number of related key factors, including an agreement by developed countries to reduce their emissions to a level commensurate with their historical responsibilities; the establishment of new institutional arrangements to enable developing countries to finance emission reduction and adaptation efforts; the provision of additional public sector funding to the current Adaptation Fund; an agreement to make use of flexibilities in intellectual property rights to promote the transfer of environmentally friendly technologies to developing countries; and the avoidance of trade protectionism.

18. His Government was already taking a number of steps to combat climate change, particularly through its initiatives to promote low-carbon-emission technologies, energy efficiency and reforestation. However, adequate financing would be needed from the international community to smooth the transition to a low-carbon economy in Pakistan.

19. The United Nations should play a central role in advancing the global sustainable development agenda, particularly in view of the need for an integrated and coordinated response by the international community to new and emerging challenges. In that context, his delegation looked forward to an early decision regarding the convening of a high-level event on sustainable development in 2012, welcomed efforts aimed at highlighting the need for sustainable mountain development and also noted its support for the adoption of a science-based approach to help countries devise their disaster reduction strategies and better adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

20. A member of the newly formed Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level Representatives on International Environmental Governance, Pakistan looked forward to further deliberations on the Group's recommendations during the current session of the General Assembly.

21. **Mr. Hirsch** (Norway) said that more ambitious commitments were imperative for the success of the forthcoming climate change negotiations in Copenhagen. While a significant share of the additional financial resources for both adaptation and mitigation efforts must be covered by developed countries, larger and more advanced developing countries should also agree to measurable, reportable and verifiable actions. Norway had put forward a proposal to extract resources from the carbon market through the auctioning of allowances. It also believed that a new global climate regime would provide incentives to stimulate development and the use of carbon capture and storage technologies on a global scale.

22. Medium- to long-term efforts to combat deforestation and forest degradation were of crucial importance, given the vital role that forest ecosystems

could play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Norway would continue to allocate substantial funds for the protection and sustainable management of forests in developing countries, particularly through the programmes established by UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It was essential for such organizations to work together closely to make the best possible use of the expertise and capacity of the multilateral system.

23. It would also be funding the preparation of a special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on managing the risk of extreme events and disasters.

24. Biodiversity in the form of plants, livestock and game was the wealth of the poor. However, climate change also threatened to further reduce biodiversity and hence to undermine food security. In cooperation with the United Nations, Norway had convened a series of conferences on biological diversity in the city of Trondheim; the sixth such conference would be held in February. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010 should therefore lead to the establishment of new targets to improve food security for the world's poor.

25. If the international community eventually agreed to convene a high-level event on sustainable development in 2012, that event must be forward-looking and focused and should in no way overlap with or undermine the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development or other intergovernmental bodies. Additional topics for discussion at the event might include the green economy, water-related issues and reform of the international environmental governance system.

26. **Ms. Bruell-Melchior** (Monaco) said that Monaco had a long-standing tradition of promoting environmental protection. Prince Albert II had further strengthened that commitment with the establishment of a foundation to address climate change, biodiversity and water-related issues. Through the combined efforts of the foundation, its national policies and international cooperation, Monaco was promoting the sustainable and equitable management of natural resources and supported the development of innovative and ethical solutions to improve the lives of the most vulnerable populations. Monaco was determined to provide its full support to the United Nations environmental conventions.

27. Her delegation commended the Secretary-General for convening the recent Summit on Climate Change and for highlighting the situation of the most vulnerable countries. She stressed that developing countries must be able to adapt to the harmful effects of climate change and that a binding agreement must be reached in Copenhagen to ensure a post-Kyoto regime. In that respect, her delegation welcomed the decision taken at the third World Climate Conference to establish a global framework for climate services.

28. It would be necessary for the international community to show the same ambition in 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity. The forthcoming high-level event on biodiversity should provide the political momentum necessary to set new objectives at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Japan in October 2010.

29. The desire to achieve sustainable development required appropriate financial support. Official development assistance (ODA) must be accompanied by long-term investment aimed at capacity-building in developing countries, particularly through the transfer of technology.

30. In the light of the recent global crises, the importance of agriculture for food security and the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in developing countries, particularly women, could not be overstated. In that connection, her delegation also wished to join the appeal of the Group of 20 (G-20) that economic recovery should be based on a new green economy.

31. Lastly, she recalled that Monaco had been an active member of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Support Group for several years and had implemented its International Strategy for Disaster Reduction national platform in 2009. Accordingly, Monaco would continue to contribute towards emergency humanitarian assistance.

32. **Mr. Ahmed** (Bahrain) said that the disasters that had occurred in 2008 had cost the lives of over 236,000 people and affected more than 200 million, as well as damage in excess of $180 billion, thus highlighting the need at the national and international levels to find ways of reducing the risk of disasters and mitigating their consequences.

33. Such disasters, most of which had their origin in climate change and were largely unavoidable, were mainly concentrated in the developing countries, and more particularly the lower-income countries which lacked sophisticated technology such as early warning systems to alert them to an impending danger before it occurred. Adaptation to the phenomenon of climate change should become an integral part of local practice and people must be made aware of it and create a framework for national action to encourage participation in disaster risk reduction.

34. The developing countries, and particularly the small island developing States, including Bahrain, were concerned about the connection between climate change and sea-level rise and the related risks; the landlocked developing States were also at risk of economic loss as a result of natural hazards. That was a reason to comply with the obligations set forth in the Hyogo Declaration and in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 which was based on building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters, and providing assistance to developing countries vulnerable to natural disasters and to disaster-struck States that were transitioning towards a sustainable material, social and economic recovery.

35. His delegation expressed appreciation for the Secretary-General's report (A/64/280) and agreed with him that the full implementation of all the goals contained in the Hyogo Framework for Action should be accelerated and adequate contributions be made to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction, which had received approximately $7.6 million in 2008, to support the joint results of Strategy partners, including the *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*. On 17 and 18 May 2009, Bahrain had hosted a meeting attended by the Secretary-General to launch the *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction* with the cooperation of the United Nations. Bahrain had contributed $1 million to support the biennial publication of the Global Assessment Report, which had been prepared in the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and was concerned with the protection of life and property against natural disasters, greenhouse gases, earthquakes, floods and rising sea levels, which all had an impact on sustainable development policies and planning at every level. There was no doubt that the 20 recommendations contained in the Report were of great interest, in particular in connection with spreading cultural awareness of the seriousness of the risks and the importance of preventing them, Government participation, the commitment of States to the recommendations contained in the report and the creation of remote sensing centres to monitor the risks of earthquakes, floods and hurricanes.

36. He referred in that connection to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which, at its second session, held in Geneva in June 2009, emphasized the need for joint efforts to reduce disaster risks, adaptation to climate change and increased action at the local and community level. In that context, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of his country had announced that the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf was to establish a disaster management centre with its headquarters in Kuwait.

37. **Mr. Khair** (Sudan) said that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its seventeenth session, had recognized the impact of the current financial crisis on developing countries and highlighted the need to ensure they had the financial resources, technology and capacity to implement Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Sudan, the largest country in Africa and the most diverse, was suffering the negative impacts of climate change. Most of its population depended on the country's vulnerable ecosystem, which was challenged by recurrent drought and floods that affected food security, water supply and public health. His delegation therefore believed that climate change must be discussed within the context of sustainable development, taking an integrated, coordinated and balanced approach to economic and social development and environmental protection.

38. The countries least responsible for climate change suffered the most from its adverse impacts and therefore had a vested interest in the success of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, one that could only be measured by compliance with the commitments set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and the assistance provided to developing countries by the international community to address the consequences of climate change.

39. The goal of his country's National Adaptation Plan of Action was to find ways to address climate change, within the context of national economic development priorities, particularly in the areas of

agriculture, water resources and public health, and taking into account rapid population growth. Natural disasters, through their secondary effects, undermined the economies and societies, causing unemployment, population displacement, inflation, environmental degradation and the spread of epidemic diseases. Sudan's own experience in dealing with drought in East Africa had showed that natural disasters could not be addressed in isolation from economic, social and political factors; a holistic and integrated approach to threats to sustainable development was required.

40. Sudan supported the activities planned for the International Year of Biodiversity and was involved in the preparations for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Means of implementation must be addressed effectively to achieve targets. To that end, he stressed the need for the provision of new and additional finances and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility.

41. In conclusion, Sudan looked forward to contributing to the Sustainable Development Summit proposed for 2012, which would provide an opportunity to launch innovative measures.

42. **Mrs. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) said that developing countries needed assistance to mitigate the effects of climate change. Her country supported the leading role played by the United Nations in that regard and the consensus that the Framework Convention should serve as a global platform for all climate change initiatives.

43. Kazakhstan's national strategies were aligned with global efforts. It had become an Annex I country under the Kyoto Protocol; defined 1992 as its base year; and made a commitment to keep emissions below the 1992 level for the period 2008 to 2012. In that connection, his delegation urged Committee members to support the inclusion of an item on amending annex B to the Kyoto Protocol in the agenda of The Copenhagen Conference. As an annex B country, Kazakhstan could define its own assigned amount units, in preparation for the post-Kyoto regime.

44. The opportunity presented by the Copenhagen Conference must not be missed. Her country would work with others to create a low-carbon environment for the future, and was interested in developing an international adaptation system in which advanced countries would contribute their technological resources to assist developing countries. Kazakhstan believed that wider use of a simplified clean development mechanism would be valuable for promoting national ecologically friendly energy initiatives.

45. Energy efficient technologies must be improved and shared, and alternative sources of energy must be developed. Kazakhstan had committed to a 5 per cent target for the use of such energy.

46. **Mr. Sergeev** (Belarus) said that Belarus attached high priority to sustainable development and the achievement of the MDGs. Indeed, an integrated approach to achieve those objectives was the basis of its national strategy for sustainable development until the period 2020. However, since the attainment of the MDGs was under threat, increased cooperation among the international community had become essential.

47. Improved energy security was another key objective for the international community. Belarus therefore called on Member States to continue their work to develop an energy agenda for the United Nations.

48. Belarus wished to make a practical contribution to the international community's efforts to combat climate change. Unfortunately, that approach had not always been reciprocated by support from other countries, particularly those that had declared their interest in combating climate change but had still failed to ratify Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol. Belarus had been the first country to propose the amendment, whereby it would have voluntarily undertaken to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 5 per cent. Thus, while Belarus was grateful to the 17 countries that had already ratified the amendment, it called on all parties to the Kyoto Protocol to complete the internal procedures necessary for the amendment to enter into force as swiftly as possible.

49. In that regard, he supported the suggestion just made by the delegation of Kazakhstan that the issue of ratification of the amendment to Annex B should be included in the agenda of the forthcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. His delegation also hoped that the Conference would lead to the establishment of a new regime for combating climate change in the post-Kyoto period starting in 2012.

50. The United Nations should play a key role in expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy. In that regard, his delegation noted the important role of the interactive thematic dialogue of the General Assembly on "Energy efficiency, energy conservation and new and renewable sources of energy", held on 18 June 2009. The participants in the dialogue had made a number of specific proposals on the development of international cooperation in the area of energy, including the establishment of a mechanism to provide access to advanced energy technologies.

51. The international community should now adopt specific practical measures to promote the comprehensive use of such technologies. To that end, the Secretary-General should collect existing proposals on ways for developing and transition countries to improve their access to new and renewable technologies. The finalized recommendations could then be submitted to the General Assembly. Such work would facilitate the establishment of a fair mechanism which took into account the interests of all countries.

52. **Mr. Lwin** (Myanmar) said that although monitoring of inter-agency collaboration by the Chief Executives Board had been important, action must be taken to address remaining obstacles to implementation at the national level, including participation by all stakeholders, exchanges of best practices and lessons learned, and additional ODA for developing countries.

53. Myanmar's development policies, which covered its important forestry sector, incorporated the principles of sustainability. Its forestry policy ensured that local needs were met and forest management was sustainable and included measures to prevent deforestation and deter the uncontrolled use of fuel wood.

54. His country was developing its economic mainstay, agriculture, to eradicate poverty and to provide food security. Farmers were encouraged to adopt new techniques and were provided with inputs such as high-yield seed strains, loans and technical support. Efforts were also being made to eradicate poverty in remote and border areas and to reduce disparities among rural and urban areas.

55. The country was developing its energy sector to ensure stable supplies for business and industry and access for rural areas. Its target was energy self-sufficiency on completion of its planned hydropower projects. Regional cooperation in the energy sector would ensure greater security and sustainability through diversification, the development and conservation of resources, continuity of supply, effective use and environmentally sound technologies.

56. Climate change had led to more frequent and more devastating natural disasters and urgent action was needed because States' efforts to achieve sustainable development and development goals were being undermined. Although States were in charge of their own development, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must be applied to climate change. Myanmar hoped that strong and ambitious commitments would be made at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, and that a concrete, comprehensive and binding agreement would be reached.

57. **Mr. Barbalić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that his country supported further collaboration between developed and developing countries, especially in capacity-building and technology transfers. Long-term international cooperation would be needed for developing countries to combat climate change, particularly in the areas of both clean fossil fuel use and renewable energy technologies. Resources must be dedicated to educating the world's population so that today's youth could contribute in the future to the global effort necessary to integrate clean energy sources.

58. Bosnia and Herzegovina was aware of its enormous potential for energy from biomass, and from wind and solar power. The country had worked with its neighbours to create a regional energy market. Access to technology and expertise and the high costs of implementing new developments were problems that would be overcome through greater international cooperation.

59. **Ms. Prorok** (Ukraine) underscored the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as a coordinator, and looked forward to close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant United Nations agencies and other institutions, including the regional commissions. The Commission had made important progress in sustainable agricultural development and Ukraine attached importance to its future work in transport, chemicals, mining, waste management and sustainable consumption and production. As a member of the Commission for the

period from 2009 to 2012, Ukraine was prepared to work more closely with other members to fulfil its mandates.

60. While it understood the importance of national and international challenges, Ukraine was still living with the lasting environmental problems caused by the Chernobyl accident and would not easily achieve comprehensive sustainable development. It hoped that the international community would support its domestic efforts in that regard, especially in the form of financing assistance.

61. Ukraine was deeply concerned by climate change and the effects of extreme weather on forests, agriculture, development in general and energy production. The Secretary-General's efforts to focus world attention were welcome and a successful outcome was expected of the Copenhagen Conference. At the Summit on Climate Change held in September, the President of Ukraine had proposed an international document that would contain a world environmental constitution. His country had set targets of greenhouse gas emission reductions of 20 per cent by 2020 and 50 per cent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. Developed and developing countries, particularly those with economies in transition, must be allowed to apply different emissions reduction formulae that took into account their development and macroeconomic characteristics. An international mechanism for low-carbon technology transfer in that field would help to address climate change.

62. Biodiversity and natural ecosystems were important mitigating factors in climate change and international efforts must be made to uphold the Convention on Biological Diversity. At the national level, Ukraine's environmental policy placed special emphasis on the establishment of nature reserve funds.

63. **Ms. Chibesakunda** (Zambia) said that the crises in the global economy, in food and fuel and in climate change showed that the development paradigm must follow a sustainable path. Unfortunately, progress in the achievement of the goals set forth in Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development continued to be impeded by a lack of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer.

64. Zambia would probably not meet the Millennium Development Goals for environmental sustainability because of its dependence on biomass energy. To avoid further problems of deforestation and land degradation, it was seeking international support for the development of clean-energy hydropower stations.

65. As the international community focused on climate change and the Copenhagen Conference, it must allocate resources to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity because the actions required under those instruments would contribute greatly to combating climate change.

66. Sustainable agriculture to increase output in order to address the food crisis while not harming the environment was key to Zambia's sustainable development agenda. Indeed, the goals of its national agricultural development strategic plan included addressing the problems of land degradation and desertification. Zambia welcomed the Windhoek High-Level Ministerial Declaration related to achieving a sustainable green revolution in Africa; only the Convention to Combat Desertification could facilitate achievement of that goal by helping countries to deal with land degradation and desertification. Her delegation welcomed the Convention Secretariat's efforts to implement the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention and called on partners to help ensure that the Convention provided a strategic response to the global challenges of poverty eradication, food security and climate change.

67. Zambia was an African pilot country for the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. Forest-rich countries with less competitive investment climates and few carbon credit prospects could benefit from such an approach to reduce deforestation and they deserved international support. The country would probably not meet the goal of reversing biodiversity loss by 2010 and was working towards a new target, together with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity. It would participate in the activities of the International Year of Biodiversity, 2010, and it supported the convening of a high-level event on biodiversity on 20 September 2010.

68. Zambia stressed the need for the outcome of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference to be fair, inasmuch as developed countries should lead the way in emission reductions and significant, stable support

must be provided to developing countries so that they can implement adaptation measures and mitigation actions.

69. Given its importance, the sustainable development agenda required an extraordinary response. Only if the specific requirements of developing countries were fully addressed would the global green new deal advocated by the United Nations Environment Programme would become a reality.

70. **Ms. Pessôa** (Brazil) said that despite the enhanced understanding of the development process achieved over the past three decades, implementation of sustainable development had not happened, globalization had not resolved the challenges of sustainable development, the necessary resources for the implementation of Agenda 21 had not materialized and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals was threatened by crises that the international community had not been able to prevent. Nonetheless, the situation did not call for a new paradigm but rather implementation of sustainable development as a comprehensive framework for responses to the world's challenges.

71. Efforts to implement multilateral environmental agreements must take the form of commitments at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as historical responsibilities for emissions, in strict accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. In addition, without an international legally binding regime and the reversal of biodiversity loss, Goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability would not be achieved because its three pillars were interdependent. In the same way, elimination of extreme poverty and hunger would not be possible without a reversal of desertification and land degradation.

72. The comprehensive framework of sustainable development needed an adequate means of implementation; access to and transfer of technology; the elimination of subsidies and practices that externalized costs; and a reform of the Bretton Woods institutions and international governance to promote sustainable development.

73. **Mr. Dah** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the ever more extreme and frequent weather events, such as droughts and floods, drove home the reality of climate change. Ironically, although they produced less greenhouse gas, developing countries would suffer the most from the effects of climate change and they faced the dual challenge of achieving sustainable economic development while contributing to global efforts to combat the phenomenon. African countries, in particular, would see climate change hinder their efforts to eradicate poverty and lessen their likelihood of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

74. As a country with an agriculture-based economy, Côte d'Ivoire was all too aware of the devastation climate change could wreak, fully supported regional and global initiatives to combat it and had undertaken domestic and regional research projects to mitigate its human and environmental impact. Côte d'Ivoire also promoted investment in environmental research and clean development mechanism projects and had launched a major reforestation effort that included options for individual, private and public planting.

75. Climate change was not merely an environmental but also a development issue which must be addressed comprehensively from a sustainable development perspective. Combating climate change was an essential part of poverty reduction strategies and current wasteful trends leading to the loss of environmental resources had to be reversed. The international community and multilateral and bilateral aid agencies must ensure that public and private investments were channelled into more climate-friendly initiatives. The provision of assistance to combat climate change must not impact negatively on the fulfilment of ODA commitments.

76. His delegation hoped that the Copenhagen Conference would yield effective strategies, as well as a financial framework and a technology transfer mechanism that would benefit emerging economies. It also welcomed the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency with headquarters in Masdar City, United Arab Emirates. The Agency provided an appropriate legal and institutional framework for identifying a realistic alternative to fossil fuels and would help to promote sustainable development worldwide.

77. **Mr. Al-Dhanhani** (United Arab Emirates) said that the three pillars of sustainable development — economic development, social development and environmental protection — were threatened by the global economic and financial crises and the negative

effects of climate change. While States were responsible for their own national sustainable development and poverty eradication policies and strategies, a global partnership was also important to enable developing countries to meet challenges in those areas and to achieve their development goals. Committed to providing assistance, the United Arab Emirates would continue to support United Nations development efforts while maintaining its regional, bilateral and direct contributions that benefited more than 90 developing countries.

78. Given the huge number of people in developing countries with no access to modern energy services and the impact that had on the environment and the economy, urgent international action was needed to promote wider use of new and renewable energy sources. At the same time, future demand for energy must not affect the development plans of nations. The United Arab Emirates accorded top priority to the development of a renewable energy industry and had used its oil revenues to invest in enhancing energy efficiency programmes and such sustainable energy sources as solar, wind, hydro and geothermal energy. It had enacted legislation to combat climate change, promoted awareness of a clean environment and renewable energy in the schools and was actively building a low-emission economy. The Government had allocated $150 million to research in energy and the environment and had facilitated partnerships among interested parties to achieve a national and global sustainable environment. The country's Masdar Initiative was the result of public- and private-sector cooperation in renewable energy, nature conservation, the development of the renewable and sustainable energy industry and pilot projects in clean technologies. There was a national target to have 7 per cent of energy produced by such technologies, including hydrogen power, by 2020. As part of its strategy to use clean energy and cut emissions, the United Arab Emirates would also be establishing an atomic power facility for peaceful uses.

79. As the proud host of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the United Arab Emirates hoped that the promotion of investment in renewable energy in developing countries would contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It called on the international community to follow an inclusive and non-selective approach to energy policies and development needs, promoting efficient energy use through technology and supporting research on clean fossil energy while also seeking to effectively reduce greenhouse gases.

80. International partnerships were needed to help developing countries meet the development challenges they faced. The United Arab Emirates was looking forward to the high-level meeting on sustainable development to be held in 2012, which should strengthen cooperation and partnership among nations with a view to achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals.

81. **Ms. Ellis** (Australia) said that her country was committed to working with developing countries and the international community as a whole to overcome the challenges posed by unsustainable development and climate change. It worked to address them through its aid programme, in collaboration with bilateral partners and the international community. Australia had a strong national programme to implement Agenda 21. It valued the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the role it played in achieving sustainable development goals and looked forward to a possible high-level event on sustainable development in 2012.

82. Climate change, the greatest challenge facing humankind, was compounding environmental pressures and making international action more urgent. In preparation for the Copenhagen Conference, leaders must be more fully engaged in negotiations because climate change, it was recognized, could hinder progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. As a leading player in efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, Australia's Prime Minister, Mr. Rudd, would participate actively in those discussions.

83. Emissions must be stabilized at 450 parts per million in order to limit man-made global warming to 2°C, which would require significant cuts from advanced economies by 2020. Developing countries must commit to slower increases in emissions, before an eventual reduction in absolute levels. Globally, emissions must peak no later than 2020.

84. The bold decisions that had to be made were opportunities, not threats. Emissions could be cut while strong economic growth was maintained. Australia's economic modelling showed that if all countries

cooperated to cut emissions, the average income in the developing world could grow to more than five times the current levels by 2050.

85. Australia believed that a system of national schedules would provide the flexibility needed to find common ground between developing and developed countries. Financing would be another important aspect of any international agreement. Developed countries could provide public financing to help developing countries transform their economies and adjust to the impacts of climate change. Australia was committed to scaling up public financing even beyond the post-2012 phase of the Kyoto Protocol.

86. New technologies would be needed, along with mechanisms to make them available worldwide. At the forefront of such efforts was Australia's Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute, designed to help deliver on the goal of the Group of Eight to develop fully functioning projects to demonstrate the technology and to build capacity in developing countries. Domestically, Australia had committed to new initiatives to expand its use of renewable energy, including carbon pollution reduction, a renewable energy target of 20 per cent by 2020 and low emission energy research, development and demonstration that had a solar power component.

87. Australia encouraged all parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to aim for an ambitious outcome in Copenhagen that would permit a reduction of the damaging effects of climate change and the achievement of sustainable development goals.

88. **Mr. Kuymizakis** (Malta) said that Malta had recognized the significance of climate change in 1988, bringing it to the attention of the General Assembly, and had remained at the forefront of efforts to ensure the issue was considered a priority. The Copenhagen Conference was at the top of the international agenda and at the Summit on Climate Change, the world's leaders had agreed that the matter was the most urgent and critical issue faced by mankind.

89. Climate change was global, affecting all regions and developing and developed countries. Small island States, such as Malta, were especially vulnerable, and their socio-economic development was threatened as they faced extreme weather events, less rainfall and rising sea levels.

90. Aware of the challenges ahead, Malta supported the lead taken by the European Union in the fight against climate change. The country was not in Annex I of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change but had communicated its intention to be included and to commit to emission targets under the Kyoto Protocol. Its Government aimed to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent by 2012, eight years before the 2020 goal.

91. Climate change was leading to floods in heavily populated coastal areas, the loss of freshwater, failed crops and other consequences of saltwater intrusion. Resettlement and migration had begun and there would be growing dangers to international peace and security.

92. Malta was highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Lying in a transition zone with hot summers and mild winters, the island was affected by rising temperatures and sea levels, changing precipitation patterns, water shortages, longer sustained high temperatures and more extreme weather events. Those factors could affect health, expose more areas to drought and desertification, and reduce Mediterranean fish stocks.

93. Climate change was expected to limit water resources in the southern Mediterranean and as an island with scarce resources, Malta would be particularly affected. The Government was working to improve the energy efficiency of water distribution and desalination facilities. Policies had been introduced to make groundwater use sustainable and greater emphasis would be placed on education related to water conservation. Unlike other countries which increased water supply, Malta applied fiscal incentives to promote water efficiency in the private sector. The country believed in and encouraged public- and private-sector involvement in environmental sustainability.

94. In conclusion, he called for a concerted effort by all countries in the climate change negotiating process, and for decisive and immediate action that would lead to an agreement in Copenhagen on the way forward after 2012.

95. **Mr. Chenje** (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, gave a broad overview of the issues contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the management review of environmental governance within the United Nations system (A/64/83-E/2009/83). The Executive Director,

who welcomed the comprehensive report of the Unit, would respond to the 12 recommendations in a report to follow. He acknowledged the considerable research undertaken and the strategic nature of the report's contents and recommendations. The findings and recommendations called on Member States to improve environmental governance. The Executive Director had made the report available to Governments and had provided presentations on its contents through the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi, and the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which had heard a presentation on the report and its findings by its author, Mr. Inomata, in February 2009.

96. The Governing Council, in decisions taken at its twenty-fifth session, had taken note of the report and had established a high-level consultative group to "present a set of options for improving the international environmental governance to the Governing Council at its eleventh special session next year, in February, with a view to providing inputs to the United Nations General Assembly". The Consultative Group process and the subsequent conclusions to be reached by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session, "would provide input to, among other things, the General Assembly's follow-up to the measures' set out in paragraph 169 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome".

97. The Executive Director believed that Member States could look more closely at broader reforms that would facilitate a strong environmental pillar, able to address multiple challenges and to take advantage of emerging opportunities. For example, in the context of capacity-building and technology support, the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building could be adopted by the General Assembly as a system-wide plan. The Executive Director supported the concept of a system-wide policy orientation for the environmental protection element of sustainable development and was ready to explore the challenges and opportunities in the context of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the Environment Management Group.

98. He strongly supported the need for a system-wide, medium-term strategy on the environment and the role of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in adopting such a strategy. However, the UNEP medium-term strategy 2010-2013 had been prepared as a tool to implement its environment programme and would therefore need to be revised for system-wide adoption and implementation. The Executive Director strongly supported the recommendation to propose modalities by which Member States could better formulate and manage multilateral environmental agreements without creating independent convention secretariats, which only contributed to further fragmentation and incoherence in international environmental governance.

99. System-wide coherence in environmental governance was long overdue. Both small steps and bold measures were needed. Incremental changes and broader institutional reform were not mutually exclusive and could be addressed in tandem.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.